

**CITY OF LAREDO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
M-2011-R-05
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1110 HOUSTON STREET
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
MARCH 21, 2011
5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present Mayor Raul G. Salinas called the meeting to order.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Raul G. Salinas led in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Raul G. Salinas,
Mike Garza,
Esteban Rangel,
Alejandro Perez Jr.,
Juan Narvaez,
Johnny Rendon,
Charlie San Miguel,
Jose A. Valdez, Jr.,
Cynthia Liendo Espinoza,
Gustavo Guevara, Jr.,
Carlos Villarreal,
Cynthia Collazo,
Horacio De Leon,
Jesus Olivares,
Raul Casso,

Mayor
Council Member, District I
Council Member, District II
Council Member, District III
Council Member, District IV
Mayor Pro Tempore, District V
Council Member, District VI
Council Member, District VII
Council Member, District VIII
City Secretary
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Assistant City Manager
City Attorney

IV. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of February 22, 2011

Motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2011.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Narvaez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions

- a. Recognition by the Mayor and City Council Members of employees that retired from the City of Laredo with twenty (20) or more years of service.

- Efrain R. Mendiola – P.W. (25 years)
- Ricardo Rios – Police (26 years)
- Tiburcio Rodriguez, Jr. – Police (20 years)

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized Ricardo Rios and presented him with a certificate of recognition. Efraín Mendiola and Tiburcio Rodríguez, Jr. were not present.

- b. Recognizing the United South High School Cheerleaders for their four (4) year state competition championship.

Mayor Salinas and City Council recognized the United South High School Cheerleaders and presented them with a certificate of recognition.

Citizen comments

None.

VI. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez of Mr. Goyo Lopez to the Parks & Leisure Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Goyo Lopez to the Parks & Leisure Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- b. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez of Mr. Mario Aguero to the Para Transit Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mario Aguero to the Para Transit Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- c. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez of Ms. Linda Ramirez to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Motion to approve the appointment of Linda Ramirez to the Laredo Commission for Women.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- d. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez of Mr. Hector Chapa to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Hector Chapa to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- e. Appointment by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez of Mr. Joe Lopez to the Airport Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Joe Lopez to the Airport Advisory Committee.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public hearing and introductory ordinance authorizing the City Manager to accept from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) \$1,642,141.00 in disaster assistance resulting from the flooding from Hurricane Alex with the City providing a 25% match, and authorizing an amendment to the City of Laredo’s Fiscal Year 2011 Budget to appropriate such proceeds for purposes authorized herein; and ordaining other matters relating to the subject. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

There was no public input.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

2. Public hearing and introductory ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance (Map) of the City of Laredo by rezoning the south 2/3 of Lot 1, Block 927, Western Division, located at 3602 Santa Maria Avenue, from B-1 (Limited Commercial District) to B-3 (Community Business District); providing for publication and effective date.

Staff supports the application and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the zone change. District VII

Motion to open the public hearing.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Arturo Ramirez stated that he was trying to open a business in this area and he needed this permission to be able to work. He went on to say that this street was dead and it needed more businesses.

Motion to close the public hearing and introduce.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Rangel

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: Cm. Valdez

VIII. INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

3. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease renewal with Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane of approximately 540 square feet at Bridge II.
 1. Lease term is for one (1) year commencing April 1, 2011 and ending on March 31, 2012.
 2. Monthly rent will be \$2,810.00 for approximately 120 square feet of office space and an exclusive office entry lane of approximately 540 square feet at Bridge II.
 3. The lease may be terminated by either party with a thirty (30) day written notice.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

4. Designating as a one-way eastbound the 100, 200, and 300 block of east Ash Street, between Monterrey Avenue and Springfield Avenue, during the peak school hours of 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., and 2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday,

during school days, to indicate one-way traffic at Sanchez-Ochoa Elementary School and providing for publication and effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

5. Setting the maximum speed limits on the portion on Shiloh Drive, between International Boulevard and Loop 20, within the City limits of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, as 30 MPH, from International Boulevard to approximately 150 feet east of Woodridge Drive, as 35 MPH, from approximately 150 feet east of Woodridge Drive to approximately 300 feet east of Snow Falls Drive; and as 40 MPH, from approximately 300 feet east of Snow Falls Drive to Loop 20, providing for publication and effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

6. Setting the maximum speed limits on that portion of McPherson Road, between Del Mar Boulevard and Shiloh Drive, within the City limits of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, from 30 MPH to 40 MPH, to improve traffic mobility along the McPherson Road Corridor providing for publication and effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

7. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a renewal agreement (\$3,828.85 monthly) and an amended tower site lease agreement (\$3,000.00 monthly which includes a monthly payment reduction of \$2,147.25) for the 800 MHz Trunked Radio System Towers with Pinnacle Towers LLC, totaling \$6,828.85 monthly each being a second five (5) year term and ratifying payment of 3 rental payments totaling \$11,486.55. Funding is available in the Information Services and Telecommunications Fund (595), and contingent upon future year appropriations. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

8. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Scheduled Airline Operating Agreement and Terminal Building Lease with Allegiant Air, Inc., for exclusive and non-exclusive joint use space located at the Laredo International Airport passenger terminal for the purpose of conducting commercial air transportation services. The term of the agreement is for three (3) years effective January 1, 2011 and ending on December 31, 2013. Providing for rental and landing fee charges and incentives for adding new service to new destinations from the Laredo International Airport. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

9. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Scheduled Airline Operating Agreement and Terminal Building Lease with ExpressJet, Inc. for exclusive and non-exclusive joint use space located at the Laredo International Airport passenger terminal for the purpose of conducting commercial air transportation services. The term of the agreement is for three (3) years effective January 1, 2011 and ending on December 31, 2013. Providing for rental and landing fee charges and incentives for adding

new service to new destinations from the Laredo International Airport. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

10. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Scheduled Airline Operating Agreement and Terminal Building Lease with American Eagle Airlines, Inc., for exclusive and non-exclusive joint use space located at the Laredo International Airport passenger terminal for the purpose of conducting commercial air transportation services. The term of the agreement is for three (3) years effective January 1, 2011 and ending on December 31, 2013. Providing for rental and landing fee charges and incentives for adding new service to new destinations from the Laredo International Airport. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

11. Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease Agreement with HEB Grocery Company, L.P., a Texas Limited Partnership, as LESSEE for an approximate 15,909.26 square feet tract of irregular shaped land located at the Laredo International Airport. The subject property will be used to create a drive-way, install store sign and for delivery truck staging area off Bustamante Street to access the HEB Store. The term is for thirty eight (38) years and two (2) months effective April 1, 2011 and ending on May 31, 2049. The annual rent shall be one thousand five hundred ninety dollars (\$1,590.00); providing for an effective date.

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

12. Authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute an Interlocal Governmental Agreement between the City of Laredo and Webb County regarding the disposition of parking tickets issued to a person whose presence is required in a judicial proceeding; and the County will pay the City the sum of three-hundred dollars (\$300.00) per year due October 1st of every year during which this agreement remains in effect.

Motion to introduce as amended to say “a person who is summoned as a juror,” and strikeout “required in a judicial proceeding.”

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Ordinance Introduction: City Council

IX. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

Motion to waive the final reading of ordinances 2011-O-026, 2011-O-027, 2011-O-028, 2011-O-029, and 2011-O-030.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

13. 2011-O-026 Accepting funds in the amount of \$929,213.00 from the South Texas 9-1-1 Regional Administration Division to cost share personnel at the Laredo Police Department Public Safety Answering Point in accordance to Section 771.0751 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and Rule 251.3 Use of Revenue in Certain Counties from the Commission on State Emergency Communications; and amending the FY 2010-2011 General Fund Budget of the City of Laredo by appropriating revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$929,213.00 for salary expenses for Laredo Police Department Communications Division.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2011-O-026.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-027 Authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) in the amount of \$45,000.00, with no matching funds, and amending the City of Laredo's FY 2010-2011 annual budget for the Environmental Services Department by appropriating said grant revenue to the appropriate expenditure accounts. Funds will be used to fund household hazardous waste collection events for colonias.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2011-O-027.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-028 Amending Chapter 19, Article VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, by adding Section 19-224 prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile communication device to send, read, or write a text message or engage in any other use of the device besides dialing telephone numbers or talking to another person, while operating a moving motor vehicle; and providing for a fine of up to \$200.00 per violation.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2011-O-028.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-029 Amending Ordinance No. 90-O-101 providing for the office of Mayor Pro Tem; term of such office; role of such office; and who shall preside in the absence of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem by

amending Section 1 which provides for the office of Mayor Pro Tem from the second meeting in May to the second meeting in November of each year; and providing for effective date.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2011-O-029.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

- 2011-O-030 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Uni-Trade Forwarding, L.C., for approximately 1.5029 acres (65,466.32 square feet) of land located at 4600 Maher Avenue and known as Lot No. 1-B-1, Block No. 1 at the Laredo International Airport. Lease term is for twenty (20) years commencing on May 1, 2011, and ending on April 30, 2031, and may be extended for two (2) consecutive ten (10) year terms ending on April 30, 2051. Initial rental shall be \$1,800.00 per month and shall be adjusted annually according to changes in the Consumer Price Index and further adjusted by Fair Market Value appraisal on the 10th, 20th, and 30th anniversaries. Lessor waives Lessee's rental obligation for the initial six (6) months commencing May 1, 2011 and ending on October 31, 2011 of the term of this lease; providing for an effective date.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2011-O-030.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

X. RESOLUTIONS

14. 2011-R-017 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$285,000.00 to update the Airport's Noise Exposure Maps for Laredo International Airport and authorizing the execution of all necessary documents resulting from the award. The purpose of the grant is to determine the current noise impact on residential properties near the airport. The City's local match in the amount of \$15,000.00 (5%) is available through the Airport's Construction Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-R-017.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

15. 2011-R-019 Amending Resolution 95-R-046 of the bylaws of the Laredo Commission for Women by amending Articles III, IV, and VI.

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-R-019.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

16. 2011-R-020 Ratifying submittal by the City Manager of a grant application in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Ranger Division for the purpose of funding The Local Border Security Program (LBSP) for the period of April 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011. Funding will be used to pay for overtime to increase patrol security along the Texas-Mexican border. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-R-020.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

17. 2011-R-021 Authorizing City Manager to submit a grant application for in estimated amount of \$125,000.00 to the Texas Department of Transportation for Enforcement of Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. The grant period will begin October 01, 2011 through September 30, 2012. This grant will be used to pay for overtime for Police Officers. The City of Laredo will need to match 35% of the grant funds. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-R-021.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

18. 2011-R-022 Authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application in the estimated amount of \$50,000.00 to the Texas Department of Transportation for Enforcement of Commercial Motor Vehicle Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. The grant period will begin October 01, 2011 through September 30, 2012. This grant will be used to pay overtime to Police Officers. The City of Laredo will need to match 35% of the grant funds. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-R-022.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

19. 2011-R-023 Authorizing the City Manager to sign a water rights sales agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit A, between the City of Laredo & La Cuesta Sol Development GP, LTD, Scott Campbell whereby the City is agreeing to purchase the right to divert and use 100 acre feet per annum of Class "B" irrigation water rights to the Rio Grande River which after conversion from irrigation rights to municipal rights amounts to 40 acre feet for a purchase price of \$90,000.00 and further authorizing the City Manager to sign and file the necessary applications with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on behalf of the City requesting that said water rights be severed from Certificate of Adjudication no. 23-235, of the seller and combined with Certificate of Adjudication no. 23-3997, as amended, of the City and that the point of diversion, purpose and place of use of said water rights be changed as required by the City. Funding is available in the Texas Water Development Water Rights Grant and Loan Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-R-023.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

20. 2011-R-024 Denying Centerpoint Energy Resources Corp.'s requested rate increases to its natural gas rates and charges within the City of Laredo; preserving regulatory rights of the City; finding that the meeting complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and its legal counsel; and, following through with all processes and procedures necessary to effectuate the dictates of this resolution. .

Motion to withdraw this item.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XI. MOTIONS

21. Approving the acceptance of the proposed Final Draft of the City of Laredo Non-Radioactive Hazardous Material Route Plan and authorizing the submission of the proposed Final Draft to the Texas Department of Transportation for review and approval.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

22. Consideration to authorize the purchase of influenza vaccine and nasal flumist for the 2011-2012 flu season. The purchase will consist of 4500 doses of influenza vaccine and 500 doses of nasal flumist for a total of \$59,032.50. Funding is available through the Health Department budget. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

23. Authorizing the City Manager to ratify three (3) months of the continuation lease agreement between the City of Laredo and VIGSA, Ltd., and approve the remaining term of the contract to allow the City of Laredo to continue to operate on the property located on 3806 South Highway 83, Riverhill Commercial Center, Suite 300 situated in Laredo, Texas, for the City of Laredo Health Department Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Health promotion programs. The term of the agreement shall be for three (3) years beginning December 17, 2010, through December 17, 2013 and is contingent on future budget appropriations.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

24. Consideration for approval of the Shiloh Drive Extension approximately 1,200 L.F. as complete and approval of change order no. 5, a decrease of \$7,533.27 for the balance of quantities actually constructed in place, release of retainage and approval of final payment in the amount of \$18,831.96 to Martinez Paving Co., Inc., Laredo, Texas. Final construction contract amount is \$1,574,377.14. Funding is available in the Shiloh Drive Extension Project.

Motion to approve as amended to read \$16,583.56 instead of \$7,533.27.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

25. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 2, an increase of \$45,250.00 to the professional services contract with the Broussard Group, Inc., dba TBG Partners, San Antonio, Texas, for the Independence Hills Regional Park Project Phase I and II for value engineering, additional printing and re-packaging of project, additional designs for parking lots and bike safety course. Current engineering contract amount including this amendment no. 2 is \$515,250.00. Funding is available in the 2005 C.O. Issue.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

26. Consideration for approval of amendment no. 1, an increase of \$18,000.00 to the professional services contract with Design Group International, Laredo, Texas, for the Roof Replacement of the old Santo Niño Library to accommodate WIC basic re-design needs of the building. Current engineering contract amount with this amendment is \$108,000.00. Funding is available in the 2009 C.O.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

27. Consideration to award contract FY11-043 to the low bidder, Southern Sanitation, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated annual amount of \$61,196.04, for providing trash collection services for large volume containers. These services will be required for various city operations such as the Airport, Bridge System, Civic Center, Parks and Leisure, Public Access, Fleet Management, Traffic, Transit, Municipal Housing, Environmental Engineering, and Utilities. The contract vendor is also required to provide these containers for special events such as the Household Collection Event. Funding is available in the respective departmental budgets. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

28. Award of a construction contract to Zertuche Construction, sole bidder meeting all bid specifications, of Laredo, Texas, in the total amount of \$ 361,000.00 to make improvements to the former Airport Passenger Terminal (Building No. 104) located at the Laredo International Airport. Funding for this project is available in the Airport Construction Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

29. Consideration to ratify the emergency purchase order issued to Zertuche Construction, Laredo, Texas, in the total amount of \$137,866.00. The City Manager has authorized an emergency purchase order for repairs to the Aero-Center roof structure located at the Laredo International Airport. Funding for this project is available in the Airport Construction Funds. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

30. Consideration to award annual contract FY11-050, to the sole bidder, Texas Land Reclamation, LLC., DBA UTW Tire Collection Services, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$87,300.00, for the removal and disposal of used tires at the municipal landfill. It is estimated that approximately 900 tons of used tires will be disposed during a twelve (12) month period. Funding is available in the Solid Waste budget. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

31. Consideration to award supply contract number FY 11-049 to Leyendecker Materials, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of \$5,000,000.00, for the purchase of asphalt type "D" hot mix and asphalt type "D" hot mix with 1% lime (picked up at the vendor's yard). The term of this contract for a one (1) year period and is subject to availability of funds. All materials are purchased on an as needed basis utilizing the Engineering Department-Public Works Division construction project budgets. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

32. Consideration to award contract FY11-045 for the purchase of various vehicles to the following bidders:
- a. Philpott Motors, Nederland, TX, in the amount of \$ 63,865.00, for the purchase of two (2) light duty trucks and one (1) general purpose automobile;
 - b. Caldwell Country Chevrolet, Caldwell, in the amount of \$ 66,307.00, for the purchase of two (2) light duty trucks and one (1) general purpose automobile;
 - c. Sam Pack's Five Star Ford, Carrollton, Texas, in the amount of \$67,995.00, for the purchase of three (3) mid-size utility vehicles.

Funding for this purchase is available in the City's budget. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

33. Consideration to authorize the purchase of seventy (70) sets of structural fire fighting protective uniforms from Dooley Tackaberry, Deer Park, Texas, through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program's contract pricing in the total amount of \$148,750.00. The set includes the fire coat and trouser. Funding is available in the Fire Department's operating budget. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

34. Consideration to award contract number FY11-048 to the low bidder MG Landscaping, Laredo, Texas, in the estimated amount of up to \$100,000.00 for lawn and landscaping repairs caused by utility repairs. This contract is based on fixed hourly rates for a two (2) man crew and when needed a licensed irrigator; plus any landscaping materials. Funding is available in the Water and Sewer Fund. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

35. Consideration to award contract FY11-046 for the purchase of electrical wire and electrical materials needed to connect backup generators at various water booster stations to the following low bidders:

- a. Gateway Electric, Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$12,918.15 for the purchase of electrical pvc pipe, fittings, and miscellaneous electrical items and;
- b. Graybar Electric, Meramee, MO, in the amount of \$313,696.00 for the purchase of electrical wire.

Funding is available in the Utilities Department budget. (Finance Committee recommended item be sent to City Council)

Cm. Liendo Espinoza asked if there was any way to go with the local lowest bidder.

City Attorney Raul Casso replied that they could not because they were bound by very strict state statute in this case.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

36. Authorizing the City Manager to award an Engineering Contract to Premier Civil Engineering, LLC., of Laredo, Texas, in the amount of \$52,417.50 for engineering and surveying services for the 12 inch Water Line from River Bank Road to La Bota Parkway. Funding is available in the 2009 Utility Bond. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

37. Consideration for approval of change order no. 1 to A Plus Plumbing Contractor, Inc., Laredo, Texas for the City of Laredo and Webb County, Texas, House to Line Connections at Old Milwaukee, Tanquecitos I, Tanquecitos II, San Carlos I, San Carlos II, Los Altos, Ranchitos 359, Laredo Ranchettes, D-5 Acres. This change order is required to change three (3) items in the specifications only, as instructed by Texas Water Development Board. The contract amount remains the same in the amount of \$949,906.30.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

38. Authorizing the City Manager to reject all bids and re-bid the project for the Manhole Rehabilitation Phase 6 Project.

Eric Dupre from Southern Trenchless Solution showed a nationally published magazine article that highlighted the work that Southern Trenchless Solution had done on behalf of the City of Laredo Utility Department. He said that this was good news because it put Laredo in a national spotlight. He went on to say that the recommendation was that all bids be rejected but that their company had submitted a complete bid as a subcontractor through the general contractor, Menendez-Donnell Associates.

Tomas Rodriguez, Utilities Director, reported that he was recommending all bids be rejected because they were not complete. He went on to say that there was a tremendous difference between the lowest bidder and Menendez-Donnell Associates. He went on to explain that requirements had not been met although Mr. Dupre might disagree.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Cm. Garza

39. Consideration for acceptance and release of retainage for Sanitary Sewer Line Extension from the lift station at Interamerica to the lift station at Aquero Subdivision Project in the amount of \$26,811.01; and approval of change order No.1, with a decrease in the contract of \$36,910.33 with an original contract amount of \$305,020.41 for a revised total of \$268,110.08. Change order no. 1 is to adjust the final quantities and consolidating the miscellaneous allowance for additional work to Martinez Paving Co. Funding is available in the 2008 Utility Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

40. Authorizing the City Manager to terminate the existing contract between the City of Laredo and Rhino Builders, Ltd., for the 24" Water Transmission Line from Mary Help Booster Station along Michigan Avenue to International Boulevard project. The total contract price is \$554,945.00. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

41. Authorizing the City Manager to proceed with the Wastewater Collection Odor Control Pilot Project including purchases of materials and services for the installation of injection equipment and chemical storage at Santa Anna and Las Cruces lift stations. Pilot project costs are not to exceed \$490,000.00. Funding is available in the 1998 Sewer Bond. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

42. Consideration for acceptance, and release of 4% of the retainage in the amount of \$84,391.34, of the total 5% held to DEH Construction Co., LLC., for contract no. 3 Generators and Electrical Controls for Booster Station Improvement Project. The generators have been delivered. The remaining \$21,097.83 (1%) retainage will be

paid at a later date upon completion of project. Subject to the approval of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The final contract amount is \$2,109,783.65. Funding is available in the retainage account. This project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the amount of \$1,306,042.52 and the City of Laredo in the amount of \$803,741.13. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

43. Amending the HOME Investment Partnership Program Policy and Procedures Manual as it pertains to Down Payment Assistance (DPA). The following changes are proposed:

1. To change the DPA Affordability requirements from the current Resale Provisions to the proposed Recapture provisions.
2. To change from a deferred thirty (30) year 0% loan; to a forgivable five (5) year 0% loan where a home owner will receive a 20% annual credit for maintaining the house assisted as his/her primary residence.
3. To allow a charge of 4% per annum on any recaptured funds that are not repaid immediately after sale, lease, title change, and death of principles or any default of the program agreement.
4. To decrease the maximum loan amount to \$14,999.00 [a decrease from \$15,000.00] to qualifying households with incomes at 60% or below area median income; providing for an affordability period of five (5) years rather than ten (10) years.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

44. Consideration for approval of the selection of consultant, DEH Construction Co., LLC., for the District VII Park Improvements Project (Design/Build Project) in the amount not to exceed \$1,600,000.00. Funding is available in the 2009 C.O. and 2010 C.O. Bond.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XII. GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

45. A. Request by Mayor Raul G. Salinas

1. Discussion with possible action to create a Blue Ribbon Committee for the collaboration of educational efforts between all local schools and the City's support of educational issues relating to the youth of our community. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Esteban Rangel & Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza)

Mayor Salinas reported that the purpose of creating this committee was because education was foremost and he wanted to make sure that there was direct dialogue with the local schools in order to work together. He went on to say that he wanted a coordinated effort to promote education and for staff to meet with the school districts, both public and private.

LISD Superintendent Marcus Nelson stated that he was the biggest fan of the City of Laredo and felt that the work they were doing to make sure that children were a priority was commendable. He went on to say that he wished to work as partners with the City and that they stood behind the Mayor, City Council and City Staff.

Motion to instruct staff to come up with a working plan to form a Blue Ribbon Committee for the collaboration of educational efforts between all local schools and the City's support of educational issues relating to the youth of our community.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tem Rendon

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on naming a street or public right-of-way in our community in honor of ICE Special Agent Jaime J. Zapata. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Juan Narvaez, Council Member Cynthia Liendo Espinoza, & Council Member Charlie San Miguel)

Mayor Salinas stated that due to the ultimate sacrifice of a young man for this nation, he felt it was important that they memorialize him because he was a hero. He said that after talking with staff, they consulted with the local ICE agents because Jaime Zapata had lived and worked here in Laredo. He concluded that they had considered naming a public right-of-way in his honor.

Mr. Jerry Robinette, ICE Special Agent, stated that when they heard of this idea, they felt that it was very touching. He thanked them and said that they were honored and humbled by whatever they would decide to do.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal asked if they could look at four or five different options or possibly a place to have a memorial drive on both sides of the expressway and calling it Jaime Zapata Memorial.

Motion to instruct staff to bring back different options for the next meeting for a memorial for Jaime Zapata.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. Presentation by Dr. Marcus Nelson, 2011 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Chair for their upcoming Walk to Cure Diabetes, to be held the morning of Saturday, April 2, 2011 on the grounds of Texas A&M International University.

Dr. Nelson reported that the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation was one of the most important groups in their community. He stated that every thirty seconds, a child was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. He asked for the support of the Mayor and City Council for the Walk for the Cure on Saturday, April 2nd at 8am at Texas A&M International University.

B. Request by Council Member Mike Garza

1. Discussion with possible action regarding a report to include the number of jobs and the services provided through the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program.

Cm. Garza reported that National League of Cities had emphasized that Community Development Block Grant Program was being proposed for cuts. He went on to ask for information regarding job creation with CDBG funds.

Community Development Director Ronnie Acosta reported that they did use CDBG funds to do many of their capital improvement projects, so it depended on the nature of the project and whether they had decided to do it in-house or not. She went on to explain that any projects over \$2,500 would have recorded the number of jobs and subcontractors used. She stated that the Senate was considering a maximum of 15% cut and a minimum of 10% cut from the funding.

Cm. Garza responded that they needed to emphasize the job creation because of the program.

Community Development Director Ronnie Acosta said that they would provide a report with a history of jobs created and the structure within the Community Development Department.

C. Request by Council Member Esteban Rangel

1. Discussion with possible action on the possibility of converting alternative fuel at the landfill which would lead to gas/electricity.

Cm. Rangel stated that he visited with the Solid Waste Director Stephen Geiss and was given an overview of what they could do at the landfill. He explained

that close to 500 cities had done this conversion. He asked for solutions or recommendations to further this idea.

Solid Waste Director Stephen Geiss reported that the landfill currently had 7 million tons of waste in place which were producing 2,000 standard cubic feet of methane. He explained that there were several alternatives to using methane, starting with the City itself investing money putting wells into the landfill to extract the gas and producing electricity and then feeding electricity back into the grid. He said that there were also companies that would do a turnkey by paying 100% of development costs and then owning the electricity and paying the City for the methane that they used. He concluded that his recommendation was to go out on a Request for Qualifications to get a firm who had experience in all those aspects to get a feasibility study.

Cm. Rangel responded that he was pushing for this because it was in his district but that it would benefit the entire city.

Motion to go out for Request for Qualifications to determine the best method through a feasibility study.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

2. Discussion with possible action on hiring temporary grounds keepers for summer (May-August) 2011.

Cm. Rangel said that he got together with Osbaldo Guzman, Parks Director, and learned that there were twenty-one tournaments coming into Laredo in the summer and that the Parks Department was short of groundskeepers.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal explained that they had already discussed hiring with the department and that he would make sure that they were adequately staffed for the tournaments.

3. Discussion with possible action regarding the requests for qualifications for the tax collection contract. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Alejandro "Alex" Perez)

Cm. Rangel stated that going out for Request for Qualifications for the tax contract was a lengthy process.

Tax Assessor/Collector Elizabeth Martinez reported that the contract would expire in September 2011, and she had prepared a Request for Qualifications that only needed updating.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Rangel

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

D. Request by Council Member Alejandro “Alex” Perez

1. Discussion with possible action regarding the resurfacing of Market Street between the boundaries of District II and District III. (Co-Sponsored by Council Member Esteban Rangel)

Public Works Manager John Orfila reported that those streets were scheduled to be resurfaced two years ago, but due to gas lines they were not able to do so. He went on to say that after discussions with Center Point Energy and the City of Laredo Building Department, the schedule was for the work to begin next month and be completed by mid-May. He concluded that those five blocks would be resurfaced.

2. Discussion with possible action to provide a sidewalk study for District III.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal stated that they would come back and give them an analysis as to where they were on this study.

3. Discussion with possible action regarding the potential acquisition of property behind the Orlando and Gaby Canizales Boxing Gym and a status report on the demolition of the adjacent structure.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said that they would come back and tell them how much it would cost and give them a recommendation.

E. Request by Council Member Charlie San Miguel

1. Discussion with possible action on reminding all citizens of basic firearm safety guidelines and responsibilities and the current efforts by the Laredo Police Department in promoting Safety Gun Locks from Project Child Safe Program including the Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program.

Assistant Police Chief Gilberto Navarro reported that there were many concerns for children and adults, and the Laredo Police Department had programs to address concerns such as traffic safety, fire safety, talking to strangers, bike safety, drug abuse, and other scenarios. He said that they tried to address as many of those topics as they could. He explained that the Child Safe Program was geared toward parents to provide gun locks for gun owners.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal said that they could take a survey through McGruff and possibly use a reverse 9-1-1 response to find out about people having a weapon and whether or not they had a lock for it.

2. Discussion with possible action to have the City’s Legislative Consultant keep the City Council informed on a weekly basis (or as often as needed) on the status of proposed bills during the current State Legislative session.

Assistant City Manager Cynthia Collazo reported that they contacted Andrea McWilliams and provided information to Council in the Friday packet.

C. A. S. S. Director Jessica Newsome reported that she would provide a cross reference with their own items and their status on the Legislative Agenda.

3. Discussion with possible action to consider establishing a “Project QUEST” program in Laredo. This is an innovative job training program that has been successful in other communities and has provided training to local residents.

Cm. San Miguel reported that this was a program that had been very successful in San Antonio. He went on to say that President Bill Clinton had recognized the first graduates of this program years ago. He said that the program allowed people an opportunity to get training and education to enter a workforce with a higher wage and skill area. He explained that there were people who could not obtain additional education to get these well-paying jobs; for example, 73% of the students were women, and 40% of them were single parents. He said that people would qualify for PELL grants but did not have the resources for childcare to be able to attend school. He added that this program helped students to be full-time students in order to focus on their education. He concluded that there was a state-funded program called the JET Program that he felt should be added to the state legislative agenda’s projects and explained that a municipality would put \$75,000 into the program and then JET would match it with \$500,000.

Motion to instruct staff to begin communications with Mary Peña in San Antonio for Project QUEST.

Moved: Cm. San Miguel

Second: Cm. Valdez

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Presentation of 3rd Annual Spring Break Kite Festival and thanking all sponsors who made this event possible.

Cm. San Miguel thanked Public Information Officer Xochitl Mora and Parks Director Osbaldo Guzman and City of Laredo staff for their good work.

- F. Request by Council Member Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

1. Discussion to formulate a sidewalk program including a paving program in designated areas in District 7, utilizing discretionary funds.

Motion to approve the sidewalk program including a paving project using District 7 Discretionary Funds.

Moved: Cm. Valdez

Second: Cm. Garza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIII. STAFF REPORTS

46. Presentation by Dan Migura, Human Resources Director, regarding the status of the City's Employee Recognition Program, with possible action.

Human Resources Director Dan Migura stated that they were provided information in the Friday package on what they would implement in the near future. He went on to say that the policy would recognize individuals who did volunteer work in significant community events that was above and beyond the call of duty. He explained that the recognition would include an opportunity to receive a certificate and be recognized before the Mayor and Council as well as possibly a day off. He continued saying that they looked at a service year recognition program that would recognize employees who had ten or more years of service and giving pins or certificates, and then with twenty years of service they would provide a merchandise award. He concluded that to implement this program, they would need \$7,500 to \$10,000 initially to take care of the employees who were already at these levels.

47. Presentation by Dan Migura, Human Resources Director, regarding the status of the administrative support positions for City Council, with possible action.

Human Resources Director Dan Migura said that they had prescreened twelve individuals who were day or night above average students with backgrounds in public administration or political science that would be a good match for these positions. He went on to say that if they started this program in April, they could hire four individuals at 20 hours per week at a cost of \$45,000-51,000.

City Manager Carlos Villarreal responded that they would have to pick a pool of individuals and come to an agreement. He said that they would try to set up temporary workstations and coordinate everything through their office. He concluded that they would decide who would best serve each Council Member and that they would receive an orientation.

Motion to proceed with the program.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XV. RECESS AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

Motion to recess as the Laredo City Council and convene as the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

48. Consideration to award contract FY11-039 to Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, OH in the estimated amount of \$483,926.09 for providing leased tires for the bus and para-transit fleet. This contract provides tires for fifty one (51) buses, twenty (20) para-transit vehicles, six (6) medium size vehicles and one (1) wrecker. The term of this contract will be for three (3) years with two (2), one-year options subject to continued appropriations in future fiscal years. Funding is available in the El Metro Operations budget. (Approved by Finance Committee)

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

49. Consideration to reject all bids received for FY11-044, for the purchase of one (1) wrecker truck for the Transit System; and authorizing staff to solicit new bids with revised bid specifications. The bid pricing for the purchase of the wrecker truck exceeded the budgetary estimate.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

50. Consideration for approval to award a professional services contract to CDM, San Antonio, Texas, in the association with Mejia Engineering Company, Laredo, Texas, Hickey Peña Architects, Laredo, Texas, Carrillo & Associates, Inc., Laredo, Texas, and T&M Engineering, Laredo, Texas, for an amount not to exceed \$732,102.00 for design and preparation of plans and specifications for the El Metro New Operation and Maintenance Facility Phase I: Fuel and Wash Building. Design work is to be on a fast track basis approximately nine (9) months. Funding is available in the FTA Grant TX-03-0274.

Motion to approve.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

XVI. ADJOURN AS THE LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD AND RECONVENE AS THE LAREDO CITY COUNCIL

Motion to recess as the Laredo Mass Transit Board and reconvene as the Laredo City Council and adjourn.

Moved: Cm. Garza

Second: Cm. Liendo Espinoza

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

I, Gustavo Guevara, Jr., City Secretary, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes contained in pages 01 to 25 and they are true, complete, and correct proceedings of the City Council meeting held on March 21st, 2011.

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary